

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161727

65

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

SSO-00 SY-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY NEA: ADAY:NWH

APPROVED BY S/CCT: RAFAREY

S/PRS:RLFUNSETH (IN SUBS)

NEA/P:MHVANORDER (IN SUBS)

S/S-O: D. MACK

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O 100106Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: MORGAN ABDUCTION

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN JULY 9 (NOON BRIEFING NOT HELD, HOW-
EVER:

Q. WHAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE THERE BEEN IN THE AT-
TEMPTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF COLONEL MORGAN?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS
SINCE YESTERDAY NOON.

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PAGE 02 STATE 161727

Q. THERE WERE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT THE COLONEL'S

WHEREABOUTS WERE PRETTY WELL KNOWN, IS THIS TRUE? WHERE IS HE BEING HELD?

A. THIS IS THE KIND OF QUESTION I THINK IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO GET INTO.

Q. WE HAVE SEEN THE REUTERS ITEM REPORTING THAT THE ABDUCTORS OF COLONEL MORGAN HAVE LEVIED NEW DEMANDS. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ON THIS?

A. AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS BASED ON A BEIRUT NEWSPAPER

ARTICLE. SO FAR, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THIS REPORT.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS REFUSAL TO ACQUIESCE IN THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS?

A. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN ANY CASE, GIVEN THE DELICACY OF THE SITUATION TODAY, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO GET INTO A DISCUSSION OF DETAILS ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF COLONEL MORGAN.

Q. THE DEADLINE SET BY THE ABDUCTORS OF COLONEL MORGAN IS 2:00 P.M. TODAY. ARE THERE ANY INDICATIONS THAT THE DEADLINE MAY BE EXTENDED?

A. AS I SAID, NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY GETTING INTO DETAILS AT THIS POINT.

Q. WHAT IS EXPECTED TO HAPPEN WHEN THE DEADLINE ESTABLISHED BY THE ABDUCTORS IS PASSED?

A. NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY SPECULATING ON THIS.

Q. OVER THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE DAYS WHAT HAS THE U.S. BEEN DOING TO SECURE THE COLONEL'S RELEASE?

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PAGE 03 STATE 161727

A. AS I HAVE SAID IN EARLIER BRIEFINGS, OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT CONTINUES TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING COLONEL MORGAN. AMBASSADOR GODLEY HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA ON THE MORGAN ABDUCTION.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE RSAO BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OR BY OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT?

A. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S SAFE RELEASE.

Q. IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON TO SECURE HIS RELEASE?

A. YES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS SAYING THAT SOME FACTION OF THE PALESTINIANS BELIEVE MORGAN'S ABDUCTION WAS DONE BY A GROUP INTERESTED IN DISCREDITING PALESTINIANS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE ABDUCTION?

A. NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE BY COMMENTING ON SUCH REPORTS.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF THE ARREST OF SOME TERRORISTS IN THE AREA. HAVE THESE ARRESTS PROVIDED ANY ASSISTANCE IN THE EFFORTS TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE?

A. AS I SAY, NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY GETTING INTO DETAILS IN THE CURRENT SITUATION.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO PASSAGE OF DEADLINE, DEPARTMENT IS TAKING LINE THAT DEADLINE PASSAGE APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BROUGHT CHANGE IN SITUATION, AND WE CONTINUE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. INGERSOLL

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